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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/601,126      | 09/22/2000  | Tatsushi Nashida     | 450101-02198        | 5640             |

20999 7590 09/10/2003

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG  
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.  
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

TRAN, HAI V

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2611

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

91

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/601,126

Applicant(s)

NASHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Hai Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Amended Claim***

Applicant fails to file a "Preliminary Amendment" along with the amended claims 1-6; therefore, the amended claims 1-6 are not entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Florin et al. (US 5583560).

Regarding claim 1, Florin discloses an information providing apparatus (Fig. 1-2, element 54) for displaying information on a screen (Fig. 6-50), based on information data provided through a plurality of information sources (Fig. 1, elements 50, 56, 57), characterized by comprising:

1<sup>st</sup> information obtain means 67 for obtaining 1<sup>st</sup> information data (television program listing; Col. 2, lines 53-59; Col. 10, lines 61-65+) concerning a 1<sup>st</sup> information source 50 of the plurality of information sources, from the 1<sup>st</sup> information source;

2<sup>nd</sup> information obtain means 69 for obtaining 2<sup>nd</sup> information data (i.e., listing of all programs recorded on the VCR) concerning a 2<sup>nd</sup> information source (i.e.,

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VCR 56) of the plurality of information sources, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> information source (Col. 16, lines 40-50);

menu screen display means (TV 58) for displaying a categorized menu screen on the screen (Fig. 33-35 menu of icons/still images; Col. 3, lines 13-21 and Col. 20, lines 51-65), based on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> information data obtained (Col. 20, lines 28-31); and

display means (Fig. 3, element 63) for obtaining necessary information data from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, thereby to display information based on the necessary information data onto the screen (Fig. 33, elements 380, 375 Col. 20, lines 34-50).

Regarding claim 2, Florin further discloses that characterized in that the 1<sup>st</sup> information data is index information (EPG program information; Col. 10, lines 61-66) concerning contents output from the 1<sup>st</sup> information source 50 and the necessary information is information data (i.e., channel number provided from the service provider 50) for displaying contents of the contents (Col. 15, lines 17-40).

Regarding claim 3, Florin further discloses characterized in that the 1<sup>st</sup> information source 50 and the information providing apparatus 54 are connected with each other through a network 52 (see Fig. 1), and

The 1<sup>st</sup> information obtain means 67 (Fig. 2) obtains the 1<sup>st</sup> information data (television program listing) through the network 52 (Col. 2, lines 53-59 and Col. 10, lines 45-65+).

Regarding claim 4, Florin discloses an information providing method for displaying information on a screen (Fig. 6-50; Summary of the Invention), based on information data provided through a plurality of information sources (Fig. 1, elements 50, 56, 57), characterized by comprising:

1<sup>st</sup> information obtain step of obtaining 1<sup>st</sup> information data (television program listing; Col. 2, lines 53-59; Col. 10, lines 61-65+) concerning a 1<sup>st</sup> information source of the plurality of information sources, from the 1<sup>st</sup> information source (Col. 15, lines 10-45);

2<sup>nd</sup> information obtain step of obtaining 2<sup>nd</sup> information data (i.e., listing of all programs recorded on the VCR) concerning a 2<sup>nd</sup> information source (i.e., VCR 56) of the plurality of information sources, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> information source (Col. 16, lines 40-50);

a menu screen display step of displaying a categorized menu screen on the screen (Col. 3, lines 13-21), based on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> information data obtained (Col. 20, lines 28-31 and lines 51-65); and

a menu screen display step of obtaining necessary information data (television program listing) from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, thereby to display information based on the

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necessary information data (i.e., channel number provided from the service provider 50) onto the screen (Fig. 33, elements 380, 375 Col. 20, lines 34-50).

Regarding claim 5, Florin further discloses characterized in that the 1<sup>st</sup> information data is index information (EPG program information/television program listing; Col. 10, lines 61-66) concerning contents output from the 1<sup>st</sup> information source 50 and the necessary information (i.e., channel number provided from the service provider) is information data for displaying contents of the contents (Col. 15, lines 17-40).

Regarding claim 6, Florin further discloses characterized in that in the 1<sup>st</sup> information obtain step, the 1<sup>st</sup> information data (television program listing) concerning the 1<sup>st</sup> information source 50 is obtained from the 1<sup>st</sup> information source 50 (Col. 2, lines 53-59) through the network 52 (Col. 10, lines 45-65+).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hofmann (US 5883677) shows a method and apparatus for managing multiple outside video service providers.

Henmi et al. (US 5390027) shows a television program recording and reproducing system using program data of text broadcast signal.

Perlman (US 6169879) shows a system and method of interconnecting and using components of home entertainment system.

Yuen et al. (US 6147715) shows a combination of VCR index and EPG.

Schneidewend et al. (US 6182287) shows a preferred service management system for a multimedia video decoder.

**Contact Fax Information**

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or Faxed to: (703) 872-9314**

For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121  
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

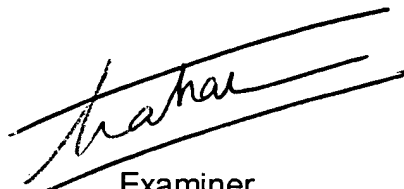
**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-7372. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Hai Tran

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'hai tran', is written over two horizontal lines.

Examiner  
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September 3, 2003